



Docket No. CISCO-4667

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Peter Van Horne, et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 09/848,534  
FILING DATE: May 2, 2001  
TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK CONNECTION SYSTEM  
AND METHOD  
EXAMINER: Peeso, T.  
ART UNIT: 2132

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

OFFICE OF PETITIONS  
DEPUTY A/C PATENTS

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims:

07/02/2001 JADD01 00000030 09848534

Please cancel claims 1-38 without prejudice.

01 FC:102  
02 FC:103

320.00 OP  
108.00 OP

Please add new claims 39-82 as follows:

39. (New) A method for providing communication with a server system in a client system through an electronic communication network, the client system including a Central Processor Unit (CPU), volatile working memory associated with the CPU, and a communications interface, the client system further running client software for managing the communications between the client system and the server system, the method comprising:

82. (New) An apparatus for providing communication with a client system in a server system through an electronic communication network, the server system running software for managing communications between a plurality of client systems and the server system through an electronic communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means for providing a set of billing options, said billing options including at least one technique for making a monetary payment;

means for receiving a billing preference from the client system , said billing preference chosen from said billing options;

means for sending an approval inquiry to a remote approval system;

means for sending a temporary approval signal from the server system to the client system before an approval signal is received by the server system from the remote approval system; and

means for conducting two-way communications with the client system through the electronic communications network.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-38 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 39-82 have been added to more specifically state and distinctly point out subject matter regarded as the invention. It is submitted that the proposed amendments do not constitute new matter.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP



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Dated: June 22, 2001

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